

2. *A method as claimed in claim 1, including altering the combination of sets which are checked prior to issuing the signal.*
3. *A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein altering the combination is performed in response to determining that the measured properties meet a further one of the sets of criteria, and wherein the act of altering results in that further set of criteria being checked, in a subsequent validation operation, prior to issuing the signal.*
4. *A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the act of altering results in that further set of criteria being checked in a next validation operation prior to issuing the signal.*
5. *A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the act of altering includes altering the combination in a manner determined by which sets of criteria have been met in a plurality of previous validation operations.*
6. *A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the act of altering includes causing a plurality of further sets of criteria, associated with a plurality of currency articles of a common currency, to be included within the sets which are checked prior to issuing the signal.*
7. *A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the act of altering comprises causing one of the further sets of criteria to be considered prior to issuing the signal, and causing one of the first-mentioned sets criteria to be considered after the signal is issued.*
8. *A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the act of altering is capable of causing any of the first-mentioned sets to be considered after issuing the signal.*
9. *A method as claimed in claim 1, in which a said further one of the sets of criteria represents an article which is to be rejected.*
10. *A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein at least one set of acceptance criteria considered prior to issuing the signal is adjusted in response to determining that an article meets the further one of the sets of criteria.*
11. *A method as claimed in claim 1, including storing data indicating the number of articles which have met at least one further set of criteria in such a manner as to enable downloading of the data.*
12. (Twice Amended) A method of validating articles of currency comprising:

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measuring properties of an article;
checking the properties against a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article; and
determining, as a result of the checking operation, whether the article is one of said types, wherein the criteria relating to respective types of articles are considered in a sequence, and the sequence is altered for a subsequent validation operation.

13. *A method as claimed in claim 12, including issuing a signal indicating that the article is not genuine after a plurality of determinations and depending on the results of those determinations, and prior to further determinations being made.*

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14. (Twice Amended) A method of validating articles of currency comprising:
measuring properties of an article;
checking the properties against a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article, during a validation period prior to issuing a signal indicating whether the article is an article of one of the predetermined types; and
automatically preventing a single one of the sets of criteria, associated with a predetermined type of article, from being considered during a validation period of a subsequent validation operation.

15. (Twice Amended) A method of validating articles of currency comprising:
measuring properties of an article;
checking the properties against a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article, during a validation period prior to issuing a signal indicating whether the article is an article of one of the predetermined types; and
automatically causing a single different set of criteria, associated with a different type of article, to be considered during a validation period of a subsequent validation operation.

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16. (Amended) Apparatus for validating articles of currency comprising:
memory for storing data defining a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article; and
a processor operable to compare measured properties of an article with the criteria, and further operable to permit the criteria to be rendered effective or ineffective and to increment a credit count if the article is of the predetermined type for which the criteria are effective,

wherein the apparatus is capable of responding to recognition of a single article of one of the predetermined types by automatically preventing one of the sets of criteria from being effective during a subsequent validation operation, and then preventing incrementing of the credit count for the predetermined type of article.

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17. (Amended) Apparatus for validating articles of currency comprising:
memory for storing data defining a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article; and
a processor operable to compare measured properties of an article with the criteria, and further operable to permit the criteria to be rendered effective or ineffective and to increment a credit count if the article is of the predetermined type for which the criteria are effective,
wherein the apparatus is capable of responding to recognition of a single article of one of the predetermined types by automatically enabling a set of criteria, to be effective during a subsequent validation operation, thus enabling incrementing of the credit count when the predetermined type of article is recognized.

18. *A method of validating articles of currency comprising:
measuring properties of an article;
checking the measured properties against a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article, during a validation period prior to issuing a signal indicating whether the article is an article of a said predetermined type, the number of sets checked being substantially equal to the maximum possible to be checked during said validation period; and
wherein the method includes at least one of automatically preventing one of the sets from being considered during the validation period of a subsequent validation operation, and automatically causing a different set of criteria, associated with a different type of article, to be considered during the validation period of a subsequent validation operation.*

19. *A method of validating articles of currency comprising:
measuring properties of an article;
checking the measured properties against a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article and the predetermined types belonging to the same currency, during a validation period prior to issuing a signal indicating whether the article is an article of a said predetermined type; and
wherein the method includes at least one of automatically preventing one but not all of said sets from being considered during the validation period of a subsequent validation operation, and automatically causing a different*